Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MSc Social Research**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMSSOCRS_C
5	**UCAS code**	N/A
6	**Home Department**	School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy
7	**Exit Award(s)**	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
8	**Duration of Study (number of years)**	1 year full time, 2 years part time

9	**Mode of Study**	FT	X	PT	X	DL	

10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	Level 7
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	N/A
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Statement**	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**

- Provides a rigorous training in a range of contemporary social research methods, including quantitative and qualitative methods
- Focuses on research design, addressing critical issues in social research

Distinctive features:

- Excellent foundation for doctoral social research.
- Interdisciplinary, theoretically informed and creative approach to research
- Part-time, evening, face-to-face study
- Taught by leading figures in the field

15	**Entry Criteria**

At least a second-class honours degree (2:2) in a relevant social science subject and/or relevant work or other (for example, voluntary) experience.

16	**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:

- apply quantitative and qualitative methods to social research.
- demonstrate understanding of issues in designing social research, including ontological, epistemological and ethical issues.

On successful completion of this programme students will be expected to have

- obtained a good level of competence in applying qualitative and quantitative research methods.

- extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities.
- demonstrated the ability to conduct an independent research project.
- developed their ability to obtain and analyse information from a wide array of sources.

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	The programme consists of lectures and seminars for taught modules, along with a dissertation. In the Quantitative methods modules, assessment is based on a research project submitted during the year and a final exam. In the other modules, assessment is by coursework.

18	**Programme Description**
	This is an interdisciplinary social science training programme designed to prepare students for further research in the workplace or for MPhil/PhD study. The programme covers ontology, epistemology, quantitative and qualitative techniques, and advanced methods masterclasses. All students also carry out an independent dissertation, putting into practice the methods and theoretical concepts they have been taught. The programme provides a particularly strong environment for theoretically informed, interdisciplinary and socially engaged research.
	Students take four compulsory modules (120 credits) and write a 60 credit dissertation. Full-time students take all four taught modules Oct-May and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept. Part-time students take two modules each year and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept of their second year.

19	**Programme Structure**

Full-Time programme – 1 year

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO108S7	Theorising Social Research	30	Compulsory
7	SSPO019S7	Masterclass in Social Research	30	Compulsory
7	POSO075S7	Qualitative Social Research	30	Compulsory
7	POSO076S7	Introductory Quantitative Social Research (or)	30	Compulsory
	SSPO133S7	Intermediate Quantitative Social Research		
7	SSPO018D7	Social Research Dissertation	60	Core

Part-Time programme – 2 years

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	POSO075S7	Qualitative Social Research	30	Compulsory
7	POSO076S7	Introductory Quantitative Social Research (or)	30	Compulsory
	SSPO133S7	Intermediate Quantitative Social Research		

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO108S7	Theorising Social Research	30	Compulsory
7	SSPO019S7	Masterclass in Social Research	30	Compulsory
7	SSPO018D7	Social Research Dissertation	60	Core

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	**Regulations**

	• **Admissions**
	  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy
	  http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf
	
	• **Credit Transfer**
	  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning
	  http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf
	
	• **Programme Regulations**
	  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme
	  http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations
	
	• **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)** N/A

21	**Student Attendance Framework** *– in brief*
	The full version of the 'Student Attendance Framework' is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf . **Principle** Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded. **Attendance expectation** Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations. **E-Registers** All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

22	**Student Support and Guidance**
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services

23	**Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards**
	The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.
	For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality .

24	**Programme Director**	Andrew Fugard
25	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	Autumn 2010
26	**Date approved by TQEC**	Spring 2010
27	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Summer 2010
28	**Date(s) updated/amended**	April 2018